

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the telephone conference on April 27, 2004. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to amend independent claims 1 and 8 as suggested by the Examiner in the telephone conference. Dependent claims 2, 4, and 5 are also hereby amended, and claim 3 is canceled. The present amendments to the claims are supported by the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 21-29; at page 4, lines 10-16; and at page 5, lines 3-6. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is entered by the present amendments. Upon entry of this paper, claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-21 will be pending in this application, with claims 9-17 having previously been withdrawn.

Applicant submits that claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 18-21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection, and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 18-21 in due course.

Applicant submits that neither United States Patent No. 4,690,235 to Miyakoshi (“Miyakoshi”) either alone, or in combination with United States Patent No. 4,246,779 to Leone, Sr. (“Leone”) teach or suggest a motorcycle drive unit and a tool assembly, wherein a rear wheel of the motorcycle drive unit is removed and the motorcycle drive unit is attached to the tool assembly and wherein the tool assembly is removable from the motorcycle drive unit for re-attachment of the rear wheel to the motorcycle drive unit, the agricultural system capable for use in farming.

Miyakoshi discloses a three-wheeled motor vehicle which has a large utility space substantially coextensive with the transverse and longitudinal dimensions of the motor vehicle for storing cargo or supporting a working unit or attachment (see Column 2, lines 7-11 of Miyakoshi). The working unit or attachment can, for example, be a snowplow unit or a cultivating unit (see FIGS. 11-14 of Miyakoshi).

Leone discloses a two-wheel motorcycle. A support housing is straddled by the rear frame elements of the motorcycle with a support shaft extending into the axle openings in the frame to support the frame. A drive shaft sleeve coaxially surrounds the support shaft and has either a sprocket for connection to the chain of a chain driven motorcycle attached to one end or an internally splined sleeve drivingly connectable to an externally splined output drive member of a shaft drive motorcycle. A low-friction chain connects the drive shaft sleeve to a power drive

shaft drivingly connected to a dynamometer or optionally a generator, pump, or the like. (see the Abstract, and Column 3, lines 63-67 of Leone)

Applicant respectfully submits that Miyakoshi and Leone, neither alone or in combination, teach or suggest a motorcycle drive unit and a tool assembly, wherein a rear wheel of the motorcycle drive unit is removed and the motorcycle drive unit is attached to the tool assembly and wherein the tool assembly is removable from the motorcycle drive unit for re-attachment of the rear wheel to the motorcycle drive unit, the agricultural system capable for use in farming. That is, there is no combination of Miyakoshi and Leone in which the removal of a rear wheel and its replacement by a farm implement is suggested or taught. To move the farm implement of Miyakoshi from the side to the back and to replace the rear wheel of Leone with this implement completely changes the structure and function of both the Miyakoshi and Leone devices and can only be suggested in hindsight. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable and that dependent claims 2, 4-5, 7, and 18-21, which depend directly or indirectly from an allowable base claim, are also allowable.

Applicant also submits that claim 8 is patentable over Miyakoshi in view of Leone, United States Patent No. 3,298,453 to Bobard (“Bobard”), and United States Patent No. 2,230,749 to Hebert (“Hebert”). Neither Miyakoshi, Leone, Bobard or Hebert, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a motorcycle drive unit wherein a rear wheel of the motorcycle drive unit is removed and a tool assembly is attached to the motorcycle drive unit; the tool assembly comprising a structural chassis and an axle comprising first and second ends; a first wheel disposed at the first end of the axle; a second wheel disposed at the second end of the axle; a transmission unit comprising a differential gear box disposed between the first and second wheels; a multi-purpose tool bar for at least one of a cultivator, a seed drill, and a sprayer kit mounted on the structural chassis; a braking system connected to at least one of the first or second wheels; and a lifting mechanism.

Hebert discloses a Frame A including two parallel side members 10, 11 between which extends a pinion 12 which carries a rear wheel B¹. The side members 10, 11 extend rearwardly beyond the rear wheel B¹ and are connected at their extreme ends by a draw bar 13 which is secured to members 10, 11 by bolts 14. The draw bar 13 is provided with apertures 15 which are adapted to receive a clevis pin for hitching a plow or other implement (see Column 2, lines 3-14 and Column 3, lines 59-72 of Hebert).

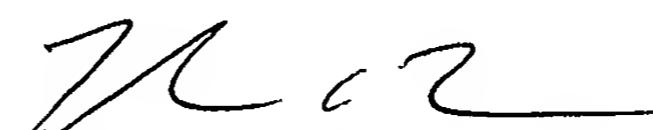
Bobard discloses a tractor which includes a tubular chassis. A tow arm for tools, particularly agricultural tools, is fixed to one side of the tubular chassis 1 between two wheels, for example, just behind the front wheel and thus is offset in relation to the chassis. (see Column 2, lines 49-52 and Column 3, lines 41-45 of Bobard).

Applicant respectfully submits that Miyakoshi, Leone, Hebert or Bobard, neither alone or in combination, teach or suggest a motorcycle drive unit wherein a rear wheel of the motorcycle drive unit is removed and a tool assembly is attached to the motorcycle drive unit; the tool assembly comprising a structural chassis and an axle comprising first and second ends; a first wheel disposed at the first end of the axle; a second wheel disposed at the second end of the axle; a transmission unit comprising a differential gear box disposed between the first and second wheels; a multi-purpose tool bar for at least one of a cultivator, a seed drill, and a sprayer kit mounted on the structural chassis; a braking system connected to at least one of the first or second wheels; and a lifting mechanism. The issues with the combination of Miyakoshi and Leone are discussed above. Neither Hebert or Bobard together or separately make up for the deficiencies of Miyakoshi and Leone since neither teaches or suggests the removal of a rear wheel and its replacement with a farm implement. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 8 is allowable as well.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 18-21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and objection, and allowance of claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 18-21 in due course. Applicant would like to have a telephonic interview with the Examiner upon his receipt of this Amendment and Response and kindly requests the Examiner to contact Applicant's Attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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